

MEETING
FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL
May 15, 2003
Family Outreach Conference Room
1212 Helena Avenue
Helena, MT

Members Present: Kelly Johnson (Chair), Brian Lenhardt, Dr. Mary Anne Guggenheim, Diana Colgrove, Micah Mitchell, Matthew Rotar, Ted Maloney, Anne Marie Johnson, Lucy Hart-Paulson, Becky Grey Bear, Sandi Marisdotter, Phyllis Astheimer, Ron Herman, Sandy McGennis, Dan McCarthy, Patti Russ, Liz Harter, Lynda Korth, Gerald Pease, Novelene Martin, Barbara Smith, Cris Volinkaty, Sylvia Danforth

Members Excused: Barb Stefanic, Mike Cooney, Susie Morrison, Jackie Jandt

Others Present: Peggy Moses, Shauna Cornwell (FSS, Hi-Line Home Programs), Richard Van Haecke (Part C Coordinator, DDP), Jannis Conselyea (Program Support Bureau Chief, DDP), Jackie Emerson (DDP Admin Support)

WELCOME

1. Kelly called the meeting to order and welcomed all members and guests.
2. Those present introduced themselves.
3. Changes were made in the agenda: Cris Volinkaty and Sylvia would be arriving later and Jeff Sturm, Director of DDP, would be arriving around 11:00 to update the Council on DDP activities and legislation.
4. Family Story – Becky Grey Bear (new parent representative from Wolf Point) shared that she is a single mother of 4 children: Abraham, James, Zachariah, and Rebecca. Three of her children were born with developmental disabilities and they receive services and support from Hi-Line Home Programs.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes from the March 14th meeting were reviewed. Corrections had been made to reflect that Barb Smith is representative of the Children's Special Health division and not CHIP. The motion was made to accept the minutes as amended.

The motion made by Barb Smith, seconded by Liz Harter, and the vote passed unanimously.

Legislative Update:

- Jannis Conselyea presented the new respite standards and forms that included the agreement form for respite workers and provider agencies and the voucher form that will be used for payment. As a result of the legislation passed during the session respite workers are exempt from wage & hour laws but CMS has required that the agency have an agreement with the respite worker and the worker be paid directly and not through the family.

Developmental Disabilities Update:

Richard has announced that he will be retiring on July 31st. DDP will begin recruiting for the position as soon as possible. If it is not possible to have a transition period, the new person would be starting on August 1st.

The Council would like to thank Richard for the great job he has done.

Jannis reported that there are two meetings for the Part C coordinator that a representative of DDP would need to attend. The first is the OSEP Summer Continuous Improvement and Focused Monitoring Institute in Salt Lake City on July 21 and 22. Jannis will be attending and needs the Council to choose a member to accompany her. The conference will be addressing the continuous improvement planning process that must be included in the Part C Performance Report in ongoing years.

The second conference will be another OSEP sponsored meeting in Washington, DC on August 2-6. This meeting will focus on data gathering and data systems states can use to collect information related to early intervention services. WESTAT is under contract with OSEP to provide assistance and support to states in developing data collection and reporting systems. They also collect and summarize all data reports for Part C. WESTAT will support the expenses for the state's data manager to attend this meeting.

DDP is in the process of developing a 1115 Waiver with the concept of serving children ages 3-6 in a Waiver with a continuum of care into adulthood. It includes life coaching (mentoring) and would waive the income eligibility, Medicaid eligibility, and ICF/MR level of care criteria required under other waivers. This Waiver would reach those who need supports to stay in the community. As soon as the report is written it will be sent to providers. There will be a conference call on Monday (19th) with CMS Baltimore and Denver. Then the report will be sent to the Council. Dan McCarthy offered to participate in the process.

Kelly suggested that, due to the timing of the hiring of a new Part C Coordinator the dates for the Summer Summit should be changed. The new person may have to attend the data meeting and would not be able to lead the Summit on August 7. Dates in July and September were considered and the Council members decided to reschedule the Summit to take place on September 11 and 12. Richard will contact the Wingate Inn to see about availability of a conference room for those dates and reserve a block of 12 rooms for September 10 and 11 for those who indicated they would be attending.

Budget:

Cris and Sylvia reported on the results of the Legislative session. It was not clear until the last day of the session exactly how much General Fund would be cut from the Department's budget. Most of the programs that were cut were put back at the last minute: Extended Employment, Community Supports, Supported Living for cost plans under \$7,000, Donated Dental, the MIAMI project, and day care.

The phone tree worked exceptionally well (2500 messages within a few hours of being notified) and was very effective in getting the message to legislators.

The means test for families of children with disabilities was defeated.

The closure of Eastmont will free up money but it was hard to support.

Holly Raser's bill passed which will allow people to donate money to DD and receive a tax credit.

It was fortunate that no services were lost but it will not be easy for the next 2 years especially for young people graduating from high school.

The Council would like to recognize and express appreciation for the hard work by Cris, Sylvia, Sandi, and Senators John Cobb, Edith Clark, Emily Stonington, Bob Keenan on the Human Services Committee.

Gerald Pease reported that 6 of 13 funding bills are one-time funding, which means that the next session will be very difficult. He also expressed concern that term limits are taking a toll on the operation of the Legislature.

Other legislation:

Barb Smith reported that HB573 will allow school employees to give shots to children with diabetes.

Patti Russ reported that Child Care will see downsizing, no rate increases for providers, and possible copayment requirements but should be able to maintain core services.

Dr. Guggenheim commented that, although there was an incredible response from people when needed, the thinking needs to change from reactive to proactive. The attitude that taxes are bad and government is bad needs to change. There needs to be an effort now before the next election to work towards belief in fair taxation and human services or it will be worse each session.

Gerald Pease stated that even a 5 ¢ tax on pop was voted and down which had the potential to bring in extra money.

Committee reports:

Public Awareness:

Ted reviewed the Child Find grant from the US Department of Education for those new to the Council.

There have been no meetings of the public awareness committee because Richard has needed to focus on the Part C Performance report and the Part C application renewal.

Personnel Preparation:

For the benefit of the new members Ted gave the review of the training of the early intervention specialists.

The application has been submitted for a new grant that would be a partnership of UMT along with North Dakota and would include distance learning. Although only 2 are being awarded it will be an opportunity to get information from the review and to see what type of program is awarded the grant.

Ted thanked the Council and the Child and Family Providers for their support of these grants.

Jeff Sturm, DDP Director, arrived to update the Council on the DD Program.

The personnel department has given the go ahead to rehire Child and Family position when Richard retires. The recruitment will begin next week and the new person should start on August 1st. Because of the vacancy savings requirement it seems unrealistic to have much of a transition.

The refinancing of people from general fund to Medicaid is going well. By July there should be \$2.5 million recovered that will allow DDP to retain current services and to remain whole. The renewal and amendment of the Waiver is still in the process but CMS is optimistic that it will not be a problem.

Adult services for the future will be primarily federally funded and there will be very limited general fund service opportunities – probably only around 15 slots. Jeff will be meeting with Chuck Hunter to look at developing a CHIP Waiver as a means to refinance more of the general fund FES services. This may or may not be possible but there is federal money in the CHIP program that will be lost to the state if a general fund match cannot be found. We will only do this if CHIP can provide the services that are currently available through the DDP funded FES program.

We would like to see any extra dollars from refinancing used to help with those cost plans that are badly under funded.

Jeff and John Zeeck will be traveling to the National Association of State DD Directors conference next week. The conference will address the new quality initiative framework.

In a call with Greg Stanton, head of CMS, he was told to expect more oversight from CMS. CMS will be expecting more out-come based reporting. Eligibility will be an issue. The new Waiver renewal was for 2000 service opportunities as opposed to just over 1300 provided by the current Waiver.

Jeff will be put on the agenda for the September meeting.

(Committee reports – continued)

Complaint procedures: Dan said there was nothing to report on this subject at this time.

Jo Ann Dotson of the Maternal & Child Health Bureau reported to the Council on the project Abstract for the Montana's Early Childhood Comprehensive System Plan. The 3 point goal for the plan is to 1) develop a leadership partnership to develop, implement, and monitor a plan in Montana, 2) develop a plan for Montana which addresses the health, psycho-social development and early learning experiences needed by young children, and 3) develop an implementation plan for the system.

Sib Clack from the Family & Community Health Bureau reported on the Montana Birth Outcomes Monitoring System (MBOMS) birth defect registry and metabolic screening. The effort is to integrate services and assure through tracking that there are no service gaps. She asked for input for pulling together State agencies and advisory groups. There will be a meeting on July 15th.

Workgroup Reports:

Orientation manual: The updates will be sent out with the hard copies of the minutes.

Brochure: A draft of the brochure was reviewed and changes suggested. Cris suggested a picture from the TV ad that was produced. Jackie will call CDC for more information. A new draft will be sent out with the minutes and the goal will be to have the brochure for the next meeting.

Website: Updates have been made. Corrections and revisions will be made.

Membership: Becky has been added to the Council list and her appointment was sent to the Governor for approval. Richard reminded everyone that they should sign their oath of

office as soon as it arrives with the appointment letter and return it to the Secretary of State's office. This Oath must be signed before a notary.

Bylaws: The bylaws have been amended and updated.

Certification issues: Jannis reported that she will follow through with the certification event and they will try to have one in June. If not the new Child and Family coordinator will be responsible.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Council recommended writing a letter to Jeff Sturm requesting that he consider a transition period for the person to be hired as Part C coordinator and to also consider contracting for the position.

The motion was made by Sandy McGennis to have the Council write the letter, seconded by Sylvia, and passed unanimously. Cris and Kelly will work together to write the letter.

In the matter of choosing a member of the Council to go to the conference in Salt Lake City on July 21 & 22, Cris nominated Sandi Marisdotter, it was seconded by Phyllis, and passed unanimously. Cris or Sylvia said they would be willing to be backup if Sandi could not go.

Part C Coordinator's Report:

- Annual Performance Report: Richard continues to work on this report. It's must be submitted to OSEP on or before July 1, 2003.
- Part C grant application: The application process will be similar to last year. The 2003 Part C grant amount is \$2,127,667 and will be available on July 1, 2003. Grant funds will be allocated as follows: Direct Services - \$1,777,878 (83.56%); Maintenance and Implementation Activities (i.e., Family Support Services Information Network and Pre-service training for Family Support Specialist at the U of M) - \$62,954 (2.96%); and State Administration - \$286,835 (13.48%). The application is due to OSEP on May 23, 2003.

Agency reports:

Anne Marie: Head Start has the outcomes and numbers. There will be training this spring on federal testing and the testing will start in the fall and spring.

Patti: Child Care is the process of finishing the State Plan. Good Start Grow Smart (early learning guidelines for 4 & 5 year olds) draft is being finished. It will be useful for parents and child care programs prior to school. It will take 1 year to finalize then be piloted.

The agency has been chosen to participate in the 0-3 Infant Toddler planning process. It will be similar to the MAP to Inclusion.

Ted: Child Care Plus will be applying for US Department of Education grants this spring.

Sandy McGennis: Tomorrow begins the signing workshops in Missoula that will go through Sunday. There are workshops for beginning through skilled signers.

Barbara: (Flyer handout) There will be a CSHS: One Day Update on July 7. The morning will address technical side of medical conditions and the afternoon will address advocacy and caregiver issues.

Lucy: In 3 yrs approximately 25% of school district speech pathologists will retire. Incentives and distance learning are being studied to try to get people to Montana. The trend may result in an increase in paraprofessional type services.

Ron: MCHA (MT Comprehensive Health Association) has insurance for high risk people who can't get coverage. Right now they are paying 65% of the premium during the 4-month waiting period for previous conditions and then 40% of the premiums.

Phyllis: Sandi asked to report that all Part C services for Family Outreach have been billed out as of March. There has been a 30-40 person over serve per month. There is a need to increase the contract amount. When general fund services are rolled into the Waiver there will no longer be the ability to over serve.

Sylvia: The LifeSpan Respite bill passed the US House and is now in the Senate. It would provide funding for the infrastructure within Montana.

Cris: Watch for bills that eliminate insurance for our children. Most were defeated but 1 will be doing a pilot.

CDC was surveyed by the Council on Accreditation.

CDC is doing an RFP for Evaluation and Diagnosis and for PASARR.

Dan: There will be a decrease in State Special Ed funding and a decrease in General Education funds. The results of mill levies were mixed – some passed and some didn't. By July 1 there should be a much clearer picture for the next school year. It doesn't look like there will be funds for expansion or for innovative ideas.

Dan shared his ideas on what the impact of No Child Left Behind will mean for schools and teachers because children in special education will often be assessed and measured with the same tests as everyone else and all will go into the mix.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be the Summer Summit. The dates have been changed to September 11 and 12 in Helena at the Wingate Inn.

Kelly asked that input for the agenda be emailed to her.

The Council thanked Richard for his service with early intervention services.

The meeting was adjourned.